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Letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

Attached herewith is the national report of Norway on gender equality and the empowerment of women, for the annual ministerial review to be held during the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council, under item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Morten **Wetland**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2010/100.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

National report of Norway on gender equality and the empowerment of women for the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council

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I. Executive summary

National achievements in the field of gender equality

1. Over the last 40 years there has been rapid growth in economic activities among women in Norway. Close to 80 per cent of all women age 25-66 are in the labour force. The fertility rate is high at 1.98 compared with the European Union (at 1.53) and other industrialized countries. The gender perspective has been mainstreamed into most areas and sectors of public life. Norway has implemented various policies to allow people the possibility of combining family and work life. The use of different affirmative actions has been vital to increase women's participation in decision-making. Norway has in place strong legislation for gender equality and combating discrimination. The Equality Ombud, which ensures the enforcement of the gender equality legislation, has been an institution since 1979. Some of the key lessons learned so far are that the welfare state has been crucial for women's liberation and gender equality. The tripartite cooperation between employers' organizations, the trade unions and the State, together with research institutions, has played a central role in the development of a modern welfare state. An active women's movement, with a strong focus on gender equality and family issues, has also been important. Social change depends on profound political will. However, Norway still faces some challenges. Although Norwegian women take part in working life to almost the same extent as men, many women work part-time. Still, girls' and women's educational choices and women's occupational choices are highly gender-segregated, hence the segregated labour market in Norway. Furthermore, women on average earn 15 per cent less than men per hour.

International development cooperation

2. Gender equality is at the core of Norway's international development cooperation. Girls' education, maternal health and women, peace and security are key areas of intervention.

II. Implementation of national strategies and policy

1.1. Main results in the field of gender equality

1.1.1. Progressive gender equality policies

3. The last 40 years have seen substantial equality between the genders come true, with vast changes in Norwegian culture, politics and economic life. There has been rapid growth in economic activities among women in the past decades. Close to 80 per cent of all women age 25-66 are in the labour force. High workforce participation is among the main reasons for cohesion of economic differences between women and men. Norway has a high fertility rate at 1.98 compared with the European Union (with an average fertility rate at 1.53) and other industrialized countries. A'though Norwegian women take part in working life to almost the same extent as men, many work part-time and they do not work in the same occupations, industries or sectors as men. According to our national budget, human resources contribute to 82 per cent of the national wealth. The oil industry contributes to 7 per cent of national wealth. Women's contribution to the economy is decisive to ensure sustainable economic growth and development.

4. A robust economy is essential to any nation in order to develop a sustainable welfare state. Modern societies need to utilize all human resources, regardless of gender; and regardless of disability, ethnicity, religion, age and sexual orientation.

5. The welfare state has been crucial for women's liberation and gender equality for two reasons: the welfare sector jobs have provided opportunities for women from the 1960s and onwards; moving women from the informal economy — homemaking, agriculture etc. — to the formal economy. In addition, public services have made it easier for most women to combine labour market participation with family responsibilities.

6. Since the 1960s, the tripartite cooperation between the employers' organizations, the trade unions and the State and the cooperation with research institutions has played a central role in the development of the modern welfare state. Norway has for a long time had an active women's movement setting the agenda for women's economic participation. This has been the background for the designing of structures and reforms that allow women and men to combine family and work life and to share parental responsibilities. The lesson learned so far is that social change can only come as a result of an active political will.

1.1.2. Gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting

7. Since the late 1980s, Norway has implemented action programmes to support the incorporation of gender equality as an integral element of all Government policy areas. Norway follows the recommendation of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in 1995 in Beijing, which states that the gender equality perspective should be mainstreamed into all areas and sectors, combined with targeted policies and measures. At the government level, gender mainstreaming means that each ministry is responsible for matters relating to gender equality in its own area of responsibility.

8. In 2005, the Government issued instructions for official studies and reports concerning consequence assessment, submissions and review procedures in connection with official studies, regulations, propositions and reports to the Storting. The instructions state that the consequences for gender equality, are to be assessed and evaluated if relevant.

9. The Gender Equality Act, section 1a, states a duty for both the public and the private sector to promote gender equality and to report on the equality activities. The act is enforced by the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud. The duty also applies to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and employee and employers' organizations.

10. In 2005, the main budget circular from the Ministry of Finance introduced guidelines on how the ministries are to carry out a gender equality assessment of their own budget areas. It is up to each ministry to decide which policy sectors they see fit to be subjected to such gender-sensitive analysis, and for such analysis to be included in their budget propositions. The aim is to consider the effects that various political decisions have on women and men, girls and boys with a view to promoting gender equality.

1.1.3. Legal framework and the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud

11. Legal protection against discrimination is necessary in order to ensure equality. The Gender Equality Act provides the framework for all efforts to promote gender equality in Norway. The Act prohibits all discrimination on the grounds of gender, but is aimed particularly at strengthening the position of women. It applies to all areas of society.

12. Since 1979, Norway has had a Gender Equality Ombud. In 2006, the new Equality and Anti-Discrimination Ombud and Tribunal were established to ensure a comprehensive enforcement of discrimination on all grounds.

13. A proposal to further strengthen the legal framework on discrimination was submitted to the Cabinet in official report No. 14 of 2009. The report has undergone a public hearing in 2009. The proposal in the report includes a bill with a broad perspective, prohibiting discrimination in all areas of society, on all grounds, including gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation and age. A comprehensive approach may be a way of providing a more effective protection from discrimination in general and of ensuring an effective protection from multiple discrimination. The Cabinet intends to submit a bill containing a comprehensive protection against discrimination in 2012.

14. In the second quarter of 2010, the Working Environment Act, the Gender Equality Act, the Act on Anti-Discrimination Ombud and the Act on Anti-Discrimination and Accessibility were amended. One result of these amendments is that it is forbidden by law to ask about a woman's pregnancy when hiring. The amendments entered into force on 9 April 2010.

15. The Gender Equality Act and the Working Environment Act have also been amended in order to limit the possibilities for religious communities to treat people unequally on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation when hiring for a specific position. Discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in religious communities must be justified.

1.1.4. Combining family and work life

Equal parenthood

16. One of the major goals of Norwegian gender equality policy has been to facilitate the participation of women in the labour market and in leadership on an equal footing with men. Legal protection against dismissal during pregnancy and the right to paid parental leave are important measures in this sense. It is also important to recognize men's responsibility for caregiving tasks and other work in the home on an equal footing with women. There is a clear intention that fathers should take on part of the responsibility for the care of their children. In Norway parenthood has also gone through essential changes in the last decades. In a typical family today both parents work outside the home and they share caregiving tasks to a greater extent than before. The most recent amendments in the Children Act aim at further ensuring equality in parenthood. The amendments include a wider definition of the child's right of access to the parents. Furthermore, the courts are provided with the competence to decide on shared place of residence for the child if it is in the best interests of the child. The amendments will enter into force by 1 July 2010.

The welfare system

17. The State has a facilitating role in providing people with the possibility of combining work and family life. Norway has several generous welfare arrangements that allow people to combine their work life and economic activities with their family life and childcare. The welfare system includes arrangements such as paid parental leave (including maternity leave and the father's quota), subsidized day-care institutions and day-care facilities for schoolchildren, the right to paid leave when a child below the age of 12 is sick (10 days), flexible working hours for parents responsible for the care of young children and cash support. In principle, all these arrangements are gender-neutral, which means they can be used by either parent. Parental benefits are earned through paid employment at a minimum average annual income. A person must have worked for at least 6 out of 10 months in order to have the right to paid parental leave. Paid employment is also a condition for some of the other benefits through the social security schemes. This is an incentive to take part in working life.

Paid parental leave and the father's quota

18. Mothers still take most of the parental leave and they work part-time far more often than fathers do. Norway was the first country in the world to provide fathers with a legal right to paid parental leave that is non-transferable to mothers (1993). The father's quota has contributed to changing the conception and understanding of the father's role, but also to the changing of stereotypical cultural attitudes. Also, paid parental leave and other parental benefits contribute to a more equal sharing of domestic and family tasks between women and men. These arrangements contribute to both equal opportunities and an equal output. The father's quota of 10 weeks is included in the parental leave that is either 46 weeks (100 per cent pay) or 56 weeks (80 per cent pay). The Cabinet has, through is political platform, declared its intention to expand the father's quota from 10 to 14 weeks and to further expand the total parental benefits period from 46 to 48 weeks with 100 per cent pay.

19. So far, about 90 per cent of the fathers that are entitled to parental leave take leave of absence. About one out of five fathers who are entitled to parental leave take leave of absence beyond the father's quota.

Kindergarten coverage

20. Kindergarten is important for parents, who wish to combine family responsibilities with their working life. A statutory right to kindergarten was introduced in 2009. Kindergarten coverage nationwide was 80.4 per cent in the 1-5 age group (school starts at the age of 6 in Norway). Norway introduced a maximum limit for parents' payment for kindergarten in 2004.

1.1.5. Women's participation in decision-making

21. The Norwegian experience is that targeted and affirmative action and legislation are necessary to ensure gender equality. The use of quotas has proven to be a successful measure for accelerating changes in society. In the 1970s, some political parties adopted quotas on their electoral lists on a voluntary basis. Since 1991, all Governments have kept the unwritten rule of at least 40 per cent gender balance in the Cabinet. Today, the gender balance in the Cabinet is complete, with 50/50 per cent representation of women and men.

22. Since 1981, the Gender Equality Act has contained a clause requiring at least 40 per cent gender balance in Government-appointed and other public appointed committees. The provision has been important for women's participation in public governance and a precursor for similar provisions relating to representation on boards of directors of public limited companies.

23. In 1993, the Municipal Act included the requirement of a 40-60 per cent gender balance in all politically appointed public committees for the Municipal Council.

24. In 2003, it was made mandatory by law for all State-owned companies, inter-municipal companies and public limited companies to have at least 40 per cent gender balance in company boards. (The latter types of companies have a broad spread of shares.) In 2010, women have taken more than 40 per cent of the boardroom positions in the companies affected by this regulation.

25. In June 2009, the Municipal Act was amended so that companies owned by municipalities and other corporations, in which municipalities or counties own at least two thirds of the shares, are required to have 40 per cent gender balance on their boards. The act entered into force on 1 January 2010 and has a transitional period of two years.

1.2. Political initiatives

26. In February 2010, the Cabinet appointed a committee that was given the task of viewing gender equality policy in Norway using a life-cycle analysis, as well as from a class and ethnicity perspective. The aim was to provide a foundation for a modern, comprehensive and knowledge-based gender equality policy. The committee received a two-year deadline to submit its report.

27. Earlier in the same month, the Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion appointed a Women's Panel to carry out a visionary debate about what is important for today's women and about what it is that creates inequality, and about how to create social engagement and move away from traditional gender roles.

1.3. Remaining challenges

1.3.1. Labour market strategies

Equal pay for work of equal value

28. Eradication of gender-based unequal pay is one of the goals of the Government's income policies, according to the Cabinet's political platform. An official Norwegian report on gender and pay was submitted to the Cabinet in March 2008. The report shows that women on average earn 15 per cent less per hour than men. The Cabinet has, through its political platform, declared its intention to follow up the proposals in the Commission's report through tripartite cooperation between employers' organizations, trade unions and the State.

Gender-segregated labour market

29. The labour market in Norway is characterized by gender segregation and by the pay gap between women and men. The problem of equal pay is not only a

question of individual pay differences based on gender. Lack of equal pay also has to do with the highly gender-segregated labour market and the price of labour in the occupations and sectors that are dominated by women.

30. The pay level is generally lower in occupations where the proportion of women is high. In general, women receive less in return for their education and experience than men do. This is especially due to the fact that many women work in the public sector, which has lower wage levels and a more compact pay structure than the private sector. The reasons why men and women choose to work in different occupations and sectors are complex. It has to do with the individual employee's preferences, norms, gender roles in the family and financial needs (supply side) and with labour market factors, such as the way employers organize working hours either on a full-time basis or a part-time basis (demand side).

Part-time work

Voluntary part-time work

31. The right to work part-time and to flexible working hours has been recognized as a way to strengthen women's participation in the labour market. Many women choose to work close to full-time (80-90 per cent) over long periods of their professional lives. Today 62 per cent of the students at the colleges and universities in Norway are women. There has been a slight fall in the number of women working part-time and a slight increase in the number of men working part-time. With an ageing population it is important to uphold a high employment rate. This includes part-time work. The Government's pension reform stimulates all employees to continue working as long as possible. The fact that women continue to do most of the work in the home is an important factor in understanding why women choose to work part-time.[1] Men, on average, have higher hourly pay than women. Women themselves also say that consideration for the family is the reason why they have not given priority to their professional career.

Involuntary part-time work

32. A person in an involuntary part-time position is referred to as underemployed. There has been a slight decline in the level of involuntary part-time work over the past 10 years. However, the level of involuntary part-time work is still too high. The latest figures show that about 60,000 employees are in involuntary part-time jobs. This is a problem for the individuals but also for society as a whole. The Cabinet has, through its political platform, declared its intention to strengthen efforts against involuntary part-time work and the right to full-time work, and to consider new legislation to achieve this. A recent amendment to the Working Environment Act gives an employee in a part-time job the right to an extended position before the employer can appointment a new person to a new position in the business. However, the preferential right is conditional on not causing substantial harm to the business and on the employee being qualified for the new position.

Women with a minority background

33. There is a need to improve the access and participation of women with minority backgrounds in the labour market. Enhanced economic equality for women

[1] Time use survey by Statistics Norway (2009).

with minority backgrounds is a prioritized objective for the Government. The Introduction Programme for newly arrived immigrants and the Second Chance Programme are important measures in this sense. The Government also has specific measures to improve recruitment of persons with an immigrant background to vacant positions in the Government sector and State-owned enterprises. Through the latest Action Plan to Promote Equality and Prevent Ethnic Discrimination 2009-2012 the Government has introduced mentoring programmes for women with a minority background and other measures relating to the labour market.

1.3.2. Strategies to combat stereotypical cultural attitudes

Men, male roles and gender equality

34. Gender equality is about both men and women. One of the main challenges of today is that boys and men often do not identify with, or engage in, gender equality. Changing stereotypical gender roles and identifying traditions, roles and notions that reproduce inequality, is one of the priority areas of the Government's gender equality policies. In 2008, the Cabinet presented a white paper document to Parliament on "Men, Male Roles and Gender Equality". The purpose of the white paper was to gather factual material and data on men and male roles. The engagement of boys and men is crucial if Norway is to reach its goal of full gender equality.

Choices of education and professions

35. Boys and girls still tend to make different choices with regard to education and professions. The choices are highly gender-segregated, especially in secondary schools and colleges. However, there are certain positive signs in education at the university level that choices reproducing gender segregation are declining. The proportion of women students has increased from 48 per cent in 1980 to more than 60 per cent in 2008. Professions, such as medicine and law, that used to be dominated by men, now have a majority of women.

36. In 2008, the Ministry of Education and Research launched an Action Plan for Equality in Early Childhood Education and Primary Education (2008-2010). The action plan proposes a number of measures in order to improve the balance between genders, including in the educational choices that children and teenagers make, as well as the gender balance of employees within the educational sector.

1.3.3. Strategies to combat gender-based violence

Introduction

37. The Norwegian position is clear: no religion, culture or tradition can ever serve as an excuse for violence against women. All use of violence is prohibited by Norwegian law and must be prevented and combated. Domestic violence against women, children or men is not a private matter, but should be dealt with by the authorities. Women are more likely to experience partner-related violence than men, and women are subject to the most serious acts of violence. A lot has been done by the police, public authorities and the shelter movement. Attitudes and mentalities are changing and will continue to change in this area. Use of violence is unconditionally prosecuted by the public authorities, regardless of whether the perpetrator and the victim are related to one another. The Government's efforts to combat domestic

violence follow from the new Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence 2008-2011. In March 2010 the Storting adopted an amendment to the Children Act, which states that all use of violence against children is prohibited, even when it occurs in the context of the upbringing of the child, and that frightening or disturbing behaviour towards children is also prohibited. The amendment will enter into force by June 2010.

Shelter services

38. A new act entered into force on 1 January 2010, that provides a statutory duty for local authorities to provide shelter services and coordinated assistance for victims of violence. The shelters are available for everyone exposed to violence in close relationships and to young people exposed to forced marriages and human trafficking. This entails a duty for the local authorities to ensure that women, men and children are given comprehensive assistance and follow-up in the form of coordinated crisis centre services for the users.

39. The act takes two different gender perspectives into account: the first perspective is to promote special equality for women by ensuring a particular protection to the group that is most exposed to violence in close relationships. The second perspective is to promote general equality between the sexes because men and women, who are exposed to violence in close relationships, should be given an equal offer in relation to the actual need for emergency assistance. The act states that the residential arrangements should be physically separated for women and men.

Trafficking in Human Beings

40. The first Plan of Action was launched in 2003. The Government will launch the fourth Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking in mid-2010. The legal protection of victims of trafficking in Norway is strengthened through the new Immigration Act. The new Immigration Act states that a former victim of trafficking can be eligible for refugee status. Both amendments will enter into force on 1 January 2010. A presumed victim of human trafficking may be granted a temporary permit for six months if the alleged victim is willing to receive assistance and to consider reporting human traffickers. This is the so-called reflection period. Being a victim of trafficking can be considered as a possible humanitarian concern when considering granting a residence permit.

Female genital mutilation

41. The third Action Plan against Female Genital Mutilation (2008-2011) involves national, regional and local authorities in the health sector, the police, schools and educational institutions, among others. The authorities have close cooperation with diaspora organizations. Changing perceptions and attitudes will take time. In 2010, Norway offers counselling and voluntary genital examination to all girls and women who have immigrated to Norway from areas where, according to the World Health Organization, the incidence of female genital mutilation is 30 per cent or more.

Forced marriages

42. There are still challenges in combating forced marriage. The Cabinet has given the work against forced marriage high priority by presenting the third Action Plan

against Forced Marriage for a period of four years in 2008. The primary target group is young women and men who are threatened with, or subjected to, forced marriage. Norway has also made several amendments to immigration legislation with a view to countering forced marriages. The rules regarding maintenance requirements in relation to family immigration now include stricter requirements as regards the income of the reference person.

III. International development cooperation

2.1. Main priorities

43. Since 2006, women's rights and gender equality are at the core of international cooperation. In 2008, the Government presented to the Storting report No. 11 (2008-2009) entitled "On Equal Terms: Women's Rights and Gender Equality in International Development Policy", setting out seven overarching principles:

- Women and men are to participate on equal terms in political processes.
- Women and men are to participate on equal terms in economic processes.
- Women and men are to have equal access to education.
- Women are to have a right to adequate health services and to control their own bodies and sexuality.
- Women are to have a right to a life free of violence.
- Women are to have an equal role in peace and reconciliation efforts.
- Women and men are to participate on equal terms in efforts to combat climate change, environmental degradation and humanitarian crises.

44. The Action Plan on Women's Rights and Gender Equality launched in 2007 sets out the framework for implementation, following a twin-track strategy of targeted activities and mainstreaming the gender perspective throughout the whole breadth of Norwegian development policy. Involving men and boys as partners for gender equality, promoting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights and a life-cycle perspective are integral elements of the strategy.

45. Education for girls has long been a high priority. Norwegian support for this area is primarily channelled through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Norway is giving 1 billion Norwegian kroner (approximately USD 180 million) over two years (2009-2010) to the UNICEF education and gender equality programme. Support for this area also includes the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative, a partnership that includes broad participation on the part of the United Nations system, national authorities, donor countries, NGOs, civil society and private actors.

46. Since 2007, nearly NOK 600 million a year has been earmarked for women's rights and gender equality. Gender-focused bilateral aid has increased through all budget chapters. In 2009, this amounted to NOK 5.2 billion. This is more than double compared with 2006 and represents an increase in the period from 20 per cent of total aid to 28 per cent. Progress is measured and reported in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' annual budget proposal (proposition No. 1 to the Storting).

47. FOKUS (Forum for Women and Development) is our most important national partner in the field of women and development. FOKUS is made up of more than 70 women's organizations in Norway, and has a large number of partner organizations in the South. It receives funding from the Ministry and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). Its budget has increased from NOK 18 million in 2006 to NOK 31 million in 2010. NORAD requires NGOs to mainstream women's rights and gender equality into their work. At the multilateral level, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is a key partner, and Norwegian core funding has increased from NOK 20 million in 2006 to its current level of NOK 75 million.

2.1.1. Maternal and child health

48. Worldwide, 8.8 million children under the age of 5 die each year. According to the United Nations, more than half a million women die of complications related to pregnancy and birth. The situation is particularly serious in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Most die of illnesses or complications that can easily be prevented or treated.

49. The Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals was launched by Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg in cooperation with the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007. Norway's initiative to improve maternal and child health entailed an allocation of NOK 500 million. The initiative has both a bilateral and a multilateral component. The Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals results in increased and more flexible funding, and helps to remove bottlenecks that impede performance at the national and local levels. The Network of Global Leaders, which was initiated by Norway and is led by the Prime Minister, promotes political backing and advocacy for the health-related Millennium Development Goals. The aim is to mobilize Heads of State and Government in a political network, and to encourage a clearer political leadership to improve maternal and child health. It is important to support the organizations that seek to improve women's and children's access to health services and to strengthen their rights.

50. Mr. Stoltenberg has raised the profile of maternal and child health within the High-level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems. Further, Norway took an active part in drawing up a five-point joint strategy for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, including health-care systems at the country level that provide free health services for women, young people and children. The shortage of health workers in many poor countries is a major challenge, and steps are being taken to address this. Efforts are under way to develop robust, long-term national financing systems for the health Millennium Development Goals, including trying out results-based financing for child, maternal and reproductive health.

51. Norway aims to further integrate efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 with women's empowerment (Millennium Development Goal 3) and their right to control their own bodies and sexuality.

2.1.2. Women, peace and security

52. Norway's national Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) was launched in 2006. The action plan

aims to strengthen Norway's efforts to increase the participation of women in civil and military peace operations, peace mediation and peacebuilding. The proportion of women in the Norwegian Armed Forces is increasing, albeit slowly, from 7 per cent in 2005 to 8.6 per cent in 2010. Military service is still only compulsory for men, but from 2010, women will be called in to an obligatory interview. The Norwegian Police University College was close to reaching its target of 40 per cent women in the 2009 student intake and women accounted for 40 per cent of Police and District Police employees at the end of 2008. Today, the Crisis Response Pool, which provides advice and assistance in connection with institution-building in the judicial system in former war zones, has 87 members, including 33 per cent women.

53. Norway has continuously exerted political pressure and urged the United Nations to increase the recruitment of women at all levels of peace processes. NOK 30 million a year is earmarked for strengthening the participation of women and increasing the gender perspective in peace negotiations. Norway has provided economic support for local women's groups working on peace issues at the grass-roots level as well as women's political participation in several conflict and post-conflict countries.

54. The Norwegian Armed Forces are upgrading their teaching on gender issues and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The Norwegian Armed Forces have deployed gender field advisers to the mission in Afghanistan, and have also introduced a directive on behaviour in international operations. Furthermore, Norway has been a driving force in the efforts to establish guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Police officers who are to take part in international operations are given training on operation-specific challenges relating to gender and conflict, and on resolution 1325 (2000), including on rules against sexual exploitation and abuse. The Norwegian Police Project in Afghanistan runs a project designed to strengthen women's competence and participation in the Afghan Police.

55. The Norwegian-funded capacity-building programme Training for Peace has for several years supported the training of African civilian and police personnel for peace operations in Africa. Strengthening the participation of women in peace operations has been a key aspect of this work. Since 2006, funding for humanitarian projects from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been contingent on the gender perspective being mainstreamed into a project's activities. Norway has supported a number of research projects on women, peace and security. As a follow-up to Security Council resolution 1889 (2009), Norway provided support for an international conference in Oslo in 2009 on the development of indicators.

56. It has been decided that the Norwegian Armed Forces are to draw up guidelines for protecting civilians from sexual violence in conflict situations. Norway has actively promoted Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009). During the period 2007-2009, Norway earmarked NOK 320 million of its humanitarian funds for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality and the fight against sexual violence. Norway has provided funding through the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict for several years. In the Great Lakes region, Norway supports projects providing medical and psychological support and socio-economic rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence. In Liberia, Norway has supported the establishment of women and children protection units at the country's county police stations and in Monrovia since 2006. The Ministry of

Foreign Affairs has established a project on women, peace and security with a view to strengthening the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), and improving coordination between the departments responsible for this important issue.

2.2. Remaining challenges

57. An external review of the implementation of the Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation, which was completed in 2009, points out challenges related to mainstreaming the gender perspective in bilateral cooperation and weak documentation of lessons learned at the country level. It finds that Norway performs relatively well in multilateral cooperation. In response to these challenges, the Government is planning an intensified effort in collaboration with selected embassies and is directing increased attention to mainstreaming the gender perspective in our priority areas of energy, oil, climate change and the environment, and private sector development. For example, the earmarked allocation for women's rights and gender equality is to be targeted more directly at this objective.

IV. Some issues of specific interest

3.1. United Nations reform

58. The United Nations is an important arena for Norwegian development policy. Since the United Nations reform panel presented its recommendations in 2006, Norway has played a proactive role in the efforts to establish a single, robust and independent gender equality unit. Key concerns for Norway are that gender equality be strengthened as a core value and cross-cutting theme in all United Nations organizations, programmes and operations, as well as the Organization's capacity to support stakeholders in government and civil society to achieve gender equality and promote and protect women's rights and empowerment at the country level.

3.2. Gender-based violence

59. Norway would like to play an active role in the international work towards eliminating gender-based violence. Norway welcomes the appointment of Margot Wallström as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and we are encouraged by the ambitious way she has taken on this important task. Norway also supports and is contributing to a proposal for a draft European Council convention on violence against women.

3.3. Gender balance in decision-making

60. Norway addressed gender and climate at the fifty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2009. The Nordic Summit on Climate, Gender and Equality in 2009 issued a declaration on gender and climate that calls upon politicians, organizations and individuals of both genders to assume responsibility for creating a more equal and sustainable society. The declaration also

highlights the importance of applying local knowledge, experiences and needs of both genders to important decision-making processes.

61. Women must be involved in decision-making. Men and women experience the world differently, and must be given equal responsibility — and opportunity — in developing the society of the future.

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Letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the national report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on Goal 3, on gender equality and the empowerment of women, which was prepared for the annual ministerial review meeting to be held during the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

It would be much appreciated if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council, under item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Alexandru **Cujba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2010/100.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

National report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, with special emphasis on Goal 3, for the 2010 annual ministerial review meeting of the Economic and Social Council

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMR —Annual ministerial review

CEDAW — Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CEC — Central Electoral Commission

EGPRSP — Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

EUMAP — EU-Moldova Action Plan

GDI — Gender-related human development index

GDP — Gross domestic product

HBS —Household Budget Survey

HDI — Human development index

IADGs — Internationally Agreed Development Goals

ITC — Informational technologies and communications

MCRG — Ministry of Construction and Regional Development

MDGs — Millennium Development Goals

MEc — Ministry of Economy

MEd — Ministry of Education

MEn — Ministry of Environment

MF — Ministry of Finance

MH — Ministry of Health

MTEF — Medium-Term Expenditure Framework

MTRI — Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure

NALFE — National Agency for Labour Force Employment

NARIT — National Agency for Regulating Informational Technologies

NBM — National Bank of Moldova

NBS — National Bureau of Statistics

NCFM — National Commission for Financial Market

NMB — National Bank of Moldova

NDS — National Development Strategy

NGES — National Gender Equality Strategy

NHRAP — National Human Rights Action Plan

NPEGE — National Programme for Ensuring Gender Equality

NSPCPM — National Scientific-Practical Centre of Preventive Medicine

NVP — National Voluntary Presentation

ODA — Official development assistance

PPP — Purchasing power parity

PRGF — Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility

PRSC — Poverty Reduction Support Credit

TB — Tuberculosis

Introduction

The aim of the present report is to assess the progress made by the Republic of Moldova towards the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be presented at the fourth annual ministerial review meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 2010. The Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of United Nations agencies, initiated the process of preparation of the national voluntary presentation (NVP) in November 2009. To this end, a participatory draft comprehensive IADG/MDG report was prepared, involving representatives of the Government, civil society, the donor community and other stakeholders. It assessed the impact of national reforms and selected policies, as well as of projects implemented by country development partners on the MDG targets, focusing on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The main findings of the comprehensive IADG/MDG report are summarized in the NVP.

Context

For almost two decades, the Republic of Moldova has been retooling its economy to a market economy. In 1991, Moldova seceded from the Soviet Union, becoming a sovereign and independent State. The commencement of the transition period was accompanied by the breakaway of the districts in the Transnistrian region, sparking a conflict which is not solved. This event impacted the country's political, economic and social development. Transnistria accounted for a third of Moldova's total industrial production and almost its entire energy production. Due to difficulties in implementing the economic and social reforms, made worse by the added factor of political instability, Moldova was subject to economic recessions in the first 10 years of its transition, which hampered its efforts to combat poverty.

Starting in 2000, the economy of the Republic of Moldova saw remarkable growth. However, about one third of the GDP was generated from remittances in 2008 (see annex C). From 2000-2008 the economy registered cumulative growth of 67.2 per cent, although this represented only 56.9 per cent of total output in 1990. The Republic of Moldova experienced calamities such as droughts and floods, as well as export restrictions, from 2006-2008, and in 2009 it plunged into the deepest economic crisis experienced since the transition period began. The country's GDP shrank by 6.5 per cent, which undermined the authorities' efforts to contribute to the pattern of economic growth.

The economic growth that had occurred by 2009 had contributed to a reduction in poverty and an increase in the population's income, which helped to establish improved access to health care and education. This was accompanied by social consequences such as increasing migration. During the transition period, the population of the Republic of Moldova decreased by more than one fifth, and, while the unemployment rate has gradually fallen, this was caused largely by the migration of the labour force. At the same time, the economically inactive population increased in size. From the human and gender development perspectives, as reflected by the human development index (HDI) and the gender-related human development index (GDI), the Republic of Moldova is one of the least advanced countries both in Europe and among transition States. Gender-related variations are attested to in key national development indicators — women live longer than men

and show higher enrolment ratios in higher education, while men still have relatively larger economic resources.

The present report gives an overview of the current state of implementation of the IADGs, emphasizing some of the core matters which should be given consideration so that they can be achieved in a timely manner. Considerable success has been achieved in some areas, yet for most of the targets substantial funding and policy intervention are needed to ensure either achievement or that particular targets are sustainable and irreversible. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has always remained committed to the implementation of the IADGs, but it is only with support from development partners, financial and otherwise, has progress been possible so far. With respect to some of the MDGs, official development assistance (ODA) will remain crucial for their proper completion. There is openness from external partners, and most importantly, the Government is committed and willing to improve things to help ensure equal rights for all citizens.

Part A: Implementation of national development strategies and policies

I. Key features of the National Development Strategy

The Government first officially addressed poverty in 2001 by approving the interim Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (EGPRSP) — the first strategic document of the Government since the declaration of independence. This was followed in 2004 by the full Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, which covered a three-year period, to 2007. The country's major development partners, particularly the United States of America, the World Bank, the European Commission, Sweden and Germany, accounting for approximately 79 per cent of gross ODA in 2003-2004, aligned their medium-term assistance strategies to the EGPRSP.

Although the welfare of Moldovan citizens increased considerably in this period, the impact of EGPRSP on economic growth and poverty reduction was limited owing to the weak links between EGPRSP, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the annual budget. Meanwhile, from 2005-2007, the EU-Moldova Action Plan (EUMAP) was implemented, and some legislation was adapted to EU standards, although not to the full extent possible.

The lessons learned from both the EGPRSP and the EU-Moldova Action Plan led the Government to rethink its strategic planning process, and it created the National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2008-2011, which appears to be more successful. From the outset, NDS policy measures were linked to the MTEF, and policy units were established in all line ministries to support NDS implementation.

Macroeconomic stability and efficient public administration are prerequisites for meeting the NDS objectives:

(1) Strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights;

(2) The resolution of the Transnistrian conflict and reintegration of the country;

(3) Improving the competitiveness of the national economy;

(4) Development of human capital, employment and inclusion;

(5) Regional development.

However, the economic crisis, as well as the political instability which emerged in 2009, undermined the implementation of the NDS.

Concrete steps to design a new partnership tool with the EU were launched in January 2010, when the Republic of Moldova initiated negotiations for an EU-Moldova Association Agreement. This process will result in a medium or long-term EU integration agenda for Moldova, which will represent the policy platform for internal and external resource planning.

During the Consultative Group Meeting held on 24 March 2010 in Brussels, the Government of the Republic of Moldova presented to its major development partners a strategic paper — "Rethink Moldova" — which outlines policy priorities and investment needs over a four-year period. The overall cost of the reform was estimated at €3.5 billion (about $4.7 billion). The document is a platform for dialogue concerning potential foreign aid to the Government, and is a very useful tool encompassing policies and aid coordination.

To date, the MDGs are the only long-term national targets that are included in the Government's medium-term agenda. The Republic of Moldova first established its national targets for the years 2006, 2010 and 2015 for achieving the MDGs in the 2004 EGPRSP. The Government previously reported annually on the EGPRSP and biennially on the MDGs. In 2005, the Government approved the first national MDG report, with a detailed and well-grounded analysis of each goal. Later, in 2007, after a progress analysis and a series of consultations with civil society and the country's development partners, most of the targets were revised. The revision was carried out owing to a change in the methodology used to estimate a number of indicators, the achievement of some targets by 2007 and the downward revision of other targets that seemed overly ambitious. Although all revised MDGs and indicators are covered in national strategic documents, their implementation and, therefore, the achieved results differ from goal to goal.

The assessment of the MDGs in the Republic of Moldova from a gender perspective was carried out in 2006 by UNIFEM. Also in the same year, an assessment was made regarding the human and financial resources needed to achieve the MDGs. This provided a clear estimate of the costs associated with fulfilling the MDGs in the Republic of Moldova, which allowed the Government to focus its domestic planning and foreign resource mobilization efforts. However, since their adoption, challenges have been met in fully integrating the MDGs into national strategic documents and in devising realistic short- to medium-term action plans to ensure their implementation.

II. Progress in achieving IADGs/MDGs

Goal 1: Reduce poverty and hunger

The first decade of transition was characterized by economic recession and an increasing poverty rate. However, starting in 2000, when the poverty rate was around 70 per cent, poverty began to decrease, owing to an economic revival. In 2006 (when a new methodology for estimating poverty was introduced), 30.2 per cent of the population was living in absolute poverty and 4.5 per cent in extreme

poverty. Despite these gains, absolute poverty increased for the first time in three years in 2008 owing to the global economic downturn. It reached a level of 26.4 per cent, compared with 25.8 per cent in 2007. This was due mainly to increasing poverty indicators in rural regions and a drop in remittances. The most vulnerable social groups affected by absolute poverty are the elderly, those whose only income is from self-employment in agriculture, large families and families with multiple children, and the long-term unemployed. From a gender perspective, there is no clear difference between the poverty levels of men and women (see annex C).

Public policies implemented by the Government in recent years have had a definite social orientation, with around 68 per cent of public expenditure directed towards implementing social measures. The Government, with the support of development partners,[1] has efficiently used financial resources to implement a range of policy measures in order to support the vulnerable, including those under the poverty line.

One of the most popular policies for poverty reduction was the transition from nominal compensations for utilities that are provided to 11 categories of the population to social aid based on income assessment. Though nominal compensations accounted for about half of social assistance expenditure, the approach based on categories has led to certain failures in the system — with the wealthiest two quintiles receiving one third of the compensations. Despite the efforts of the Government, the poverty trend in 2008 showed a reduced probability of achieving the intermediate target of a reduction in both the proportion of people whose consumption was less than $4.3 a day (in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms) and the absolute poverty rate by 2010.

With regard to extreme poverty, in 2007 and 2008 the Republic of Moldova succeeded in achieving a reduction in the level of extreme poverty required by both the intermediary target for 2010 and the final one for 2015.

Goal 2: Achieve universal access to general compulsory education

The progress in achieving MDGs in education has been uneven. From 2002-2008, enrolment rates in general compulsory education dropped from 95.1 per cent to 90.9 per cent. The causes of the fall in enrolment rates, as well as the rise in the number of school dropouts, are related to: poverty, especially in rural areas; the growth in the number of children who do not have permanent parental care because their parents are working abroad; and a weak school infrastructure. Although spending on education has steadily increased, reaching 8.7 per cent of GDP (which is comparable to Western Europe) in 2008 compared with 5.7 per cent in 2000, the distribution among different levels of education remains imbalanced — general compulsory education receives almost one half of available funds, though schools are being used at an average capacity of 67 per cent. A considerable number of schools are in poor condition and lack central heating and proper sanitary

[1] The main donors assisting Moldova in its fight against poverty are the International Monetary Fund, through its credits within the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) Programme, and the World Bank, through its Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) programme. Other donors, including the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, provide support to Moldova through technical assistance projects focused on the reduction of poverty and the promotion of social inclusion.

conditions. Despite all these shortcomings, the general literacy level of 98.9 per cent in 2008 and 99.6 per cent among young people aged 15-24 remains high.

The Government, with the support of country development partners, has implemented a range of policies to increase the quality of and access to general compulsory education.[2] The reorganization of schools began in early 2010, and the new financing formula, providing for greater autonomy of schools in utilizing funds, has yet to be introduced. Optimization of the school network is also relevant given the decrease in the number of students,[3] as well as the school system that was inherited. Major consideration in carrying out the reorganization of schools will be given to the needs of children with disabilities, who account for almost one tenth of children under 16.

Given that in most cases women take care of children, sometimes until school age, increasing access to preschool childcare is essential in ensuring equal access for women to the labour market. The increase in the preschool enrolment rate is, among other factors, a result of the joint efforts of the Government with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank and other partners, which together have developed new policies on early education, as well as teaching and methodological materials, which also encompass vulnerable groups. Consequently, the percentage of children with a preschool education is continuously increasing. In 2008, the enrolment rate for children aged 3-6 years was 74.4 per cent, compared with 44.1 per cent in 2000, which is close to the target of 75 per cent for 2015.

From a gender perspective, enrolment in the general mandatory education system does not show any significant disparities — the enrolment ratio for boys is only marginally higher than that for girls. Thus, in primary education, where gender differences are slightly more prominent than in secondary education, the enrolment rates of girls and boys were 92.7 per cent and 94.4 per cent, respectively, in 2008. But in secondary education, the disparities are insignificant, the rate of enrolment in 2008 being 88.8 per cent for girls and 89.8 per cent for boys. There are also no serious disparities between the sexes in preschool enrolment; the enrolment ratio for girls aged 3 to 6 is 73.8 per cent, while for boys it is 74.9 per cent.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The representation of women in decision-making is heterogeneous in the Republic of Moldova. The State Constitution stipulates that women and men are equal before the law and public authorities. At the Parliamentary level, trends seem more favourable for women following the 2009 parliamentary elections, with the number of women represented in the Parliament constantly increasing. Currently about 30 per cent of seats are held by women, which was the target. Though there is no legislation to enforce this, the inclusion of women is due largely to the will of the political parties, indicating a commitment and responsibility on the part of the Moldovan political class in this issue. This level of representation of women,

[2] The main policy papers on education are: Moldovan Educational System Modernization Programme (2005-2008); "Education for All" National Plan (2004-2008); "SALT" Programme for Implementing Informational Technologies in Education; Strategy and Action Plan on the Reform of the Residential System (2007-2012); and National Strategy and Plan for Community Action (2007-2009).

[3] According to forecasts, the number of students will fall by more than 24 per cent in the academic year 2014/2015 compared with 2006/2007.

however, does not indicate full equality between the two sexes, therefore there is still work to do.

In 2008, women's representation in leadership positions in local public administration remained constant — 3.1 per cent of heads of local public administration (LPA) and 17.4 per cent of mayors were women. At the same time, the percentage of women elected as legislators in LPA councils rose to 16.9 per cent of district councillors and 28.7 per cent of local councillors. At the local level, the only position where women outnumber men is in the lowest levels of the hierarchy (consultant/specialist level). In the central executive, even though there is gender parity in the distribution of salaries and even in senior positions, women are concentrated at the lower end of hierarchical structures.

Despite the fact that the representation of women is increasing in LPA councils as well as in the Parliament, their place in the decision-making structures cannot be predicted, since future developments depend largely on the way each political party perceives gender-parity-related issues.

Discrepancies between the salaries of women and men have decreased in recent years, with the average female salary standing at 73.3 per cent of the average male salary in 2008. The existing gender pay gap is caused by the fact that women, in most cases, either work in less well-paid domains which are traditionally considered feminine occupations, such as education and health-care services, or occupy low-paid positions such as subordinate jobs with no managerial tasks or prerogatives.

Yet the main challenge is not ensuring the implementation of sound and clear legislation, which is a relatively easy task. This MDG's peculiarity results from the fact that its achievement involves a change in people's mentality — an evolution which takes longer.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Compared with other MDGs, important achievements have been made in reducing child mortality thanks to the efforts undertaken by the Government. Success in this area is the result of regionalizing perinatal medical assistance, implementing in vitro transportation, establishing a national system of monitoring and observation of perinatal medical assistance and other measures implemented by the Government with the support of country development partners.[4] Although a new methodology for defining live birth was applied[5] in 2007, leading to growth in the infant mortality indicators for that year, the situation was significantly better than in 2000, and even compared to 1990. From 1990 to 2008, infant mortality dropped from 19 to 13.1 per 1,000 live births. A similar trend occurred in the under-five mortality rate. This shows that the targets for 2010 and 2015 for both indicators have greatly exceeded targets.

[4] The Government of Japan, Switzerland, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UNICEF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the World Bank have provided financial assistance to reduce child mortality.

[5] The methodology for defining live births recommended by the World Health Organization is birth which occurs after 22 completed weeks of gestation and newborn weight of 500 gms or more. Previously, the respective indicator was estimated based on the definition of a live birth as that which occurred after 28 completed weeks of gestation and with newborn weight of 1,000 gms or more.

The accomplishment and sustainability of this MDG depends greatly on the implementation of national immunization programmes and actions for increasing awareness of the positive effects of vaccinating children against measles. Though universal immunization cannot be achieved for various reasons, the proportion of children immunized against measles in Moldova is among the highest in the world[6] (94.4 per cent).

Infant and under-five deaths are higher among boys — a finding that may be explained by the fact that fewer girls were born each year than boys. In rural areas, mortality rates for both female and male infants are higher than in urban areas. This indicates that there is a more important problem that needs to be addressed — universal access to quality general health care throughout the whole territory of the country.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

The Republic of Moldova has a low population, with around 38,000 births a year. It has seen a steady decrease in maternal mortality since the 1990s, with an average of less than 25 cases (23.6) per 100,000 newborns in recent years — an indicator which is considered low according to WHO. Furthermore, some 99.5 per cent of births are attended by skilled health personnel, which is high.

The predominant causes of maternal deaths are bleeding, followed by late gestosis, septic states, thromboembolism, hepatic cirrhosis and, rarely, there are cases of anaesthesia-related complications. Of the total number of maternal deaths, major social problems can be linked to about half, such as migratory lifestyle, disregard for medical care and lack of modern medical procedures in some district maternity wards. Further complications arise from abortions. Owing largely to the implementation of family planning measures, the number of abortions in the Republic of Moldova has fallen significantly — from 37,000 in 1997 to 14,000 in 2008. The complications resulting from abortions, however, continue to represent one of the causes of maternal deaths.[7]

The gains that the Republic of Moldova has registered in recent years (except for 2008) in the context of reducing maternal mortality are largely the result of the public policies that have been implemented, together with the support of the country's development partners. A number of policies were successfully carried out that ensured that all pregnant women, together with their newborns, regardless of their ethnic origin, social or marital status, or political or religious views, benefit from fair and free access to high-quality health services during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum period.[8]

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[6] Source: NationMaster, a worldwide database with data gathered from sources such as the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Central Intelligence Agency.

[7] In 1997, for every 100 newborns, 75.2 abortions were registered. By 2008, this indicator had fallen to 36.2. The share of interrupted pregnancies in the age group 15-19 years has been more or less constant over the past 10 years, representing 10 per cent of the total number of abortions.

[8] National programme on "Strengthening perinatal medical assistance in the Republic of Moldova" for the period 1998-2002, programme on "Promoting high-quality perinatal services" (2003-2006), National Strategy regarding reproductive health for the years 2005-2015, Healthcare System Development Strategy for the period 2008-2017, National Health Policy of the Republic of Moldova 2007-2021.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases

The Republic of Moldova has a low-level HIV epidemic, with signs that the general population is increasingly being affected. Compared to the cumulative incidence of HIV, the incidence among 15-to-24-year-olds fell in 2008. HIV continues to have a dramatic effect on the young and fertile population. Moreover, a trend has emerged towards the feminization of the infection: at the beginning of the epidemic, the majority of HIV-positive persons were men (84 per cent), while in recent years women have represented a growing share of the people infected. From 2003-2007, the proportion of pregnant women tested for HIV rose from 96 per cent to 99.4 per cent, and HIV prevalence among this group continued to rise: 0.1 per cent in 2005; 0.21 per cent in 2006; and 0.23 per cent in 2007.[9] In 2009, the number of new HIV cases among pregnant women decreased; it would be premature, however, to affirm that incidence rates are falling. The shift to heterosexual transmission as the main transmission mode and anecdotal evidence that migration may increase risky sexual behaviour may determine the future course of the epidemic.[10] A particularly alarming situation in this context is in the Transnistria region of the country, where prevalence is threefold (107.2 per 100,000 population on the right bank and 292.63 in Transnistria in 2009). Overall, there were 5,700 persons with HIV officially registered in 2009.

At the national level, the State policy framework guiding the HIV response in Moldova is implemented through the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections from 2006-2010, which determines the priority national strategies: prevention, epidemiological surveillance and treatment. The programme represents an integral, multisectoral plan, financed primarily by international donors. People with HIV/AIDS are provided with antiretroviral treatment free of charge in an effort to strengthen compliance. Moreover, 56 voluntary, free counselling and testing centres have been opened. In 2005, the National Coordination Council on tuberculosis/HIV was created.[11] However, despite this positive progress in preventing HIV/AIDS, most HIV education and prevention programmes are fragmented and focused on the improvement of knowledge about HIV and AIDS rather than on instigating behavioural change. There are limited prevention efforts dedicated to children and teenagers at risk, owing to limited data on the number of persons in these categories and to the service providers' inability to identify, refer and offer services.

The spread of tuberculosis in the Republic of Moldova reached epidemic proportions in the 1990s, amid a socio-economic crisis and inadequate financing of the health-care system, a shortage of anti-tuberculosis medicines from 1997-2000 and migration. In 2008, TB incidence in penitentiaries was 11 times higher than in the general population. A development causing concern is an increase in the number of cases of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, which make up about 43 per cent of the total number of cases. From a gender point of view, there is a great disparity between the number of men and women suffering from TB, with men accounting for more than two thirds of new cases of TB in 2008. The implementation of the Directly Observed Therapy Short-Course (DOTS) programme, in compliance with the National Programme for the Control and Prevention of Tuberculosis, covering

[9] Data provided by the National Centre for Sanitary Management (unpublished report, 2008).

[10] Report by Oxford Analytica, 2008.

[11] Set up by Government Decision No. 825 of 3 August 2005.

the periods 2001-2005/2006-2010, has contributed to the detection of tuberculosis and the development of statistics in the area. Access to second-line tuberculosis treatment (administered when initial or first-line treatment is ineffective) has also been extended. For the treatment of outpatient conditions of non-bacterial TB cases, a mechanism is in place to assist sufferers financially with buying medicines, food, and covering transport costs. In 2008, the rate of tuberculosis mortality for a population of 100,000 was 17.4 deaths, which was close to the 2010 target of 15.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

In order to ensure environmental sustainability, the Government has committed to increase the proportion of land covered by forests and State-protected land areas, as well as expand the population's access to quality water, sewerage and sanitation systems. Limited progress has been achieved in recent years in relation to the expansion of forested land. In general, from 2000 to 2008, the proportion of forested land increased by only 1 percentage point, reaching 10.9 per cent of the total territory of the country.

The trend of increasing the proportion of State-protected land areas that maintain biological diversity has been relatively steady since 2000. Progress was achieved in 2006 when the coverage of such areas doubled, followed by another expansion in 2007. By 2007, the revised target of 4.65 per cent for both 2010 and 2015 had already been achieved. It is important for the Republic of Moldova to improve the quality of these areas by ensuring the allocation of funds and human resources, ensuring maintenance and putting in place a protection regime, as well as quantitive growth.

A persistent problem in the Republic of Moldova is the population's access to quality sanitary conditions. In 2008, the proportion of the population with sustainable access to improved water sources was 53 per cent, with a marked disparity between urban (92.2 per cent) and rural (26.7 per cent) access. The proportion of the population with sustainable access to sewerage was 45.7 per cent, and access of the population to sanitation services, was at about the same level — 45.9 per cent in 2008. The slow dynamics of these indicators suggest that the MDG targets may not be accomplished and that progress towards health-related MDGs could be impeded. However, water supply and sanitation constitutes a top priority for the current Government, for many reasons. Apart from the social and health aspects, there are also economic reasons, with investments in infrastructure being one way to mitigate the effects of the global economic downturn. It is believed, therefore, that these indicators will swiftly catch up in the coming years after substantial funds have already been secured and feasibility studies carried out.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

For a country in transition like the Republic of Moldova, the creation of development partnerships is crucial in attaining higher living standards for the population as well as for the country's integration into European and international structures. On the one hand, this implies constant cooperation between the countries aiming at meeting the first seven MDGs and, on the other hand, achieving progress in other important domains which are not covered by the Goals, such as foreign trade, transport and communications infrastructure, external debt sustainability, and supporting the youth.

Official development assistance per capita to the Republic of Moldova has risen constantly — from 18.2 per cent in 1995 to 33.7 per cent in 2000 and 269.2 per cent in 2007. As a consequence of the economic conjuncture, the budget deficit had to be covered from external sources, resulting in an increase in the country's foreign debt. However, the increase is not critical, and the macroeconomic situation of the country is fairly balanced. The Government has succeeded in securing more than $2.6 billion for financing development for the period 2011-2013, half in grant and the rest in concessional loans. According to a recent IMF study, the gross external debt in 2010 constitutes 78.6 per cent of GDP and is expected to rise to 85.9 per cent of GDP by 2012.

Although the Republic of Moldova could be said to be a success story in dealing with international financing organizations and aid coordination in general, the efficient use of international assistance needs improvement.

The foreign trade of the Republic of Moldova is constantly expanding. However, given the peculiarities of the country's economy — which is based largely on consumption — imports, which satisfy the bulk of domestic consumption, have risen at a greater rate than exports in recent years. Thus, the trade deficit has grown more than tenfold in the past nine years. Foreign direct investment has been rising constantly, yet at a slower pace than remittances and imports.

A particular role in creating partnerships for development is played by youth.[12] The transition period had a negative impact on younger generations. In 2008, unemployment among this group was 11.2 per cent, compared with 4 per cent for the whole population. To encourage an entrepreneurial spirit among youth living in rural areas, the Government adopted the National Programme for Youth Economic Empowerment (NPYEE) for 2008-2010, which offers training and practical support for earning initial capital to start a private business. A follow-up to this programme is also being implemented with the support of the country's development partners (UNICEF, the World Bank), aimed at helping to establish microenterprises in rural areas. Additionally, the Government adopted the 2008-2009 Action Plan to encourage Moldovan migrant workers, many of whom are young, to return to the country. A programme to coordinate reintegration assistance for voluntary returnees is being implemented with the support of the International Organization for Migration. So far, return and reintegration assistance has been provided to some 460 people.

The fact that the Republic of Moldova is a landlocked country is an important aspect, especially as the country is situated in one of the most dynamic regions in the world, where trade, transport and communication is intensifying rapidly. Transportation infrastructure, namely, roads and highways, needs serious improvement in order to make the country's economy more dynamic and stimulate trade and investment. Problems caused by the country being landlocked have been partially solved by the construction and opening of the Giurgiulesti port in 2009. However, in terms of achieving essential growth in foreign trade, the port's capacities are not sufficient.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs), which represent the sixth component of this national MDG, have seen considerable progress in the Republic

[12] Youth is defined as the population group aged 15 to 24 and accounts for 10 per cent of Moldova's total population.

of Moldova in recent years. In just eight years, ICT penetration has surged, making the ICT sector account for nearly 10 per cent of GDP. This rate is considerably higher than in other countries in the region and is much higher than the European Union average. The Republic of Moldova ranks fourth among the Commonwealth of Independent States member States in terms of the ICT development index, after the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus.[13] Virtually all of the strategic programmes of national importance contain actions in the area of ICT.[14]

In addition to these issues, MDG 8 addresses the population's access to medication. In order to achieve access, in terms of both cost and location, the Republic of Moldova launched a process of systematic analysis of the pharmaceutical market with the support of WHO. Both prices and physical access to medications have increased over the last few years. Thus, around three quarters of the population has physical access to medication, and a slightly higher proportion is covered by compulsory health insurance.

Part B: Gender equality and empowerment of women

I. Gender and national strategic documents

Ensuring gender equality has been of concern to the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the past two decades of transition. The Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1994, the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation in 1995, the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value in 1999, and the revised European Social Charter in 2001. In recent years, significant progress has been made both in terms of adapting the legal and institutional framework to the context of gender policy and in terms of incorporating the issue into national policy papers. Yet we have to admit that progress in this sense was limited with the National Development Strategy 2008-2011. Gender equality has been included on the agenda of the Government via the MDGs. The commitment was undertaken by the current Government of the Republic of Moldova, which included in its programme a separate chapter dealing with policies aimed at ensuring gender equality. At the same time, a new National Programme for Ensuring Gender Equality (NPEGE) for the years 2010-2015 and an Action Plan for its implementation were adopted.

Each of the above-mentioned papers contains provisions that outlaw gender discrimination in various fields. In 1998, the Republic of Moldova presented its initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women — a report that was further revised in 2000. Subsequently, the Committee formulated tailored recommendations to the Government and, in 2004, the country

[13] According to the International Telecommunication Union's *Measuring the Information Society* report, which measures the ICT development indexes of 183 countries, Moldova is ranked 68th, placing it in the category of countries with medium levels of the Opportunity Index (ICT-OI) (in 2007, Moldova ranked 83rd). Noteworthy is the ICT-OI average annual growth rate for Moldova, where it is ranked 28th (35th in 2007).

[14] National Development Strategy, Government Programme, National Strategy for Building an Information Society (e-Moldova) and its Action Plan, etc.

presented its report, which was examined by the Committee in 2006 together with an alternative report from civil society. After evaluating these reports, the Committee formulated a number of recommendations, some of which have yet to be dealt with.[15]

The principle of equality of opportunities from the gender perspective is included in Law No. 5-XVI of 9 February 2006, on Ensuring the Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men. The law mentions the necessity of including its principles in all public policies, strategies and programmes, normative acts and financial investments, thus calling for an integrated approach to the gender dimension. It also provides an institutional framework for ensuring equality between women and men by designating the competent authorities in the area of gender equality: the Parliament, the Government, the Governmental Commission for Equality between Women and Men, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family — as the specialized authority, other ministries, central administrative authorities and local public authorities by means of gender units. The activities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, through the activities of the Department of Policies for Ensuring Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence, has contributed to the progress achieved in recent years in the area of gender equality. Based on this law and for purposes of satisfying the provisions of the Convention, the Governmental Commission for Equality between Women and Men was instituted.

II. Major challenges in the area of gender equality

The analysis of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova points to the most problematic areas, which are: the empowerment of women, particularly in the labour market, violence towards women and trafficking.[16] Areas such as the participation of women in political processes, gender-sensitive budgeting, gender mainstreaming into social protection, health and education, although at a more advanced stage, still need to be addressed in order to be properly accomplished.

Women in the labour market

The situation of women in the labour market, in spite of their higher overall level of education, is characterized, first, by a concentration of women in public-sector jobs such as health care, social assistance and education, and, secondly, by the existence of a disparity in remuneration between women and men in both the public and private sectors due to the fact that women are employed lower down the hierarchy. Both these factors lead to women having lower incomes.

With regard to the private sector, there is much less space for the Government's regulatory intervention in the sense of ensuring equal rights for men and women. According to a 2008 study,[17] about 38.1 per cent of businesses interviewed believed that women encountered tougher conditions in the labour market than men. At the same time, 42.5 per cent believed that women are faced with discrimination in the labour market. Respondents admitted that they prefer to

[15] http://www.un.md/UNIFEM/government/CEDAW/CEDAW_Recomandari%20_2006_Rom.pdf.

[16] Comprehensive IADG/MDG report, Government of Moldova, 2010.

[17] "The situation of women in the labour market of the Republic of Moldova", ASEM, Chisinau, 2008.

employ men, so as to "prevent possible human resources fluctuations". As stated above, the normative base against any type of discrimination at the workplace, including sexual harassment, is in place. Yet the universal phenomenon for any country is valid for the Republic of Moldova — a small number of such cases are proved and disclosed by undertaking legal action. Other countries' experience shows that a few cases making it to the courts on a yearly basis will not eliminate the problem for decades. The vision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova in this sense is that paramount to eliminating this problem is educating the younger generations and shaping a new, more gender-sensitive mentality in society, offering equal rights to men and to women. Eliminating stereotypes regarding gender roles or traditional professions is a much slower process, however.

Women subject to domestic violence

The Government of the Republic of Moldova took note of and is thoroughly considering the concluding observations of 25 September 2009, presented by the United Nations Human Rights Committee regarding domestic violence, intervention measures by the judiciary, the limited number and capacity of shelters for victims of domestic violence, and the fact that domestic violence is deemed to warrant police intervention only in cases where it has resulted in serious injury. At the same time, similar observations were formulated by the United Nations women's rights Committee, which continues to be concerned about the prevalence of violence, including domestic violence, against women in the Republic of Moldova.

Given the private circumstances in which domestic violence occurs, the extent of the violence experienced in the country is very difficult to estimate. However, the little data that is available points to an alarming situation.[18] According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 47 cases of family-related murders from 2008 to 2009. Information on the situation in the Transnistrian region is even less available, and any available information comes from civil society in the region. According to a survey on the perception of domestic violence in the Transnistrian region which was carried out by the local NGO "Rezonans" with the support of UNIFEM Moldova, most victims of domestic violence are women (44.5 per cent) and children (45.3 per cent). One in four women in Transnistria suffers from domestic violence in the form of either physical abuse, economic or mental and emotional violence.[19]

The Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence was adopted in March 2007 and complies with EU norms. It sets out key notions with respect to domestic violence and its forms, establishing an institutional framework with detailed responsibilities for the relevant authorities; provides for the creation of assistance centres for victims of violence and an effective mechanism for solving cases of violence by filing complaints, requesting restraining and protection orders, and isolating abusers. Although the law took effect on 18 September 2008, three orders of this kind were issued by the Moldovan courts up until November 2009,

[18] Official statistics on cases of domestic violence are collected exclusively by the police, while the indicators used do not manage to fully reflect all forms of violence occurring in a family and are limited to registering premeditated murder cases within a family, serious bodily injuries, light bodily injuries, and the number of domestic troublemakers.

[19] Survey on the perception of domestic violence in Transnistria, NGO "Rezonans", 2009.

following awareness-raising and training activities carried out with the support of donors and civil society.[20]

Publicizing such cases is one of the best tools the Government has to encourage citizens who have domestic violence problems to contact law enforcement agencies. The law stipulates the creation of services to protect victims of domestic violence. Authorities provide support for the maintenance of two centres for victims, while other costs are financed by donors. NGOs administer most of the assistance to women affected by domestic violence; these activities rely heavily on the support of donors. These organizations provide psychological and legal counselling and medical assistance, but few can afford to offer shelter as well. Much more in the way of additional resources and efforts are needed in this direction, as there are few centres, which have limited human and material resources and are not spread across the country. The limited number of protection orders was also due to the missing enforcement procedure in the national civil and criminal procedures.

For this reason, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family has drafted legislation that will enable enforcement of protection orders by judges. This draft legislation includes a new definition of "domestic violence" in the Criminal Code as well as the criminalizing of "sexual harassment" and "marital rape". At the time of writing, the legislation had had its first hearing in the Parliament on 4 May 2010. The modifications should become law by the end of the year.

Women subject to human trafficking

In the first few years after 2000, the Republic of Moldova became one of the major sources of human trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, predominantly in girls and women, of whom 14 per cent were under 18. More than half were aged 19-24.[21] There are no reliable statistics on the phenomenon of human trafficking, since many victims are not identified in either the destination countries or Moldova due to changing trafficking patterns, stigma-related fears, low levels of self-esteem and a lack of confidence in law enforcement bodies.

An indicator used to measure the phenomenon of human trafficking in the Republic of Moldova is the number of persons assisted by IOM and the Assistance and Protection Centre for the Victims of Trafficking. From 2000-2008, the total number of assisted persons was 5,183, including 2,443 victims of trafficking and 1,016 children of victims of trafficking, 50 stranded migrants and 1,674 "at-risk" cases.[22] The main forms of exploitation were: sexual (85.5 per cent), labour (6.5 per cent) and begging (3.1 per cent). The main destination countries were: Turkey (31 per cent), the Russian Federation (22.8 per cent), the Republic of Moldova (20.2 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (5.7 per cent) and Cyprus (4.4 per cent). Although exploitation patterns differ from region to region, cases of sexual exploitation are common to all destination countries and are more often registered in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Balkan countries and the Republic of Moldova.

[20] Activities carried out as part of the project "Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence", implemented by UNFPA, UNDP, IOM and OSCE.

[21] *Trafficking As It Is — A Statistical Profile, 2005-2006 Update*, IOM Moldova, 2007.

[22] IOM Moldova, FAQ about Moldova, migration, trafficking.

According to data made available by IOM and La Strada International, at least 70 per cent of trafficked victims are from families defined as "poor" or "very poor"; 65 per cent cite unemployment as the main reason for fleeing abroad, and 70-95 per cent suffered from domestic violence prior to being trafficked.[23] Another problem is internal trafficking in the Republic of Moldova, in particular from the Transnistrian region. The helpline operated by the NGO "Interaction", with IOM support, received over 2,886 calls from 2006-2008.[24] Since 2004, IOM has facilitated the repatriation and rehabilitation of 236 victims and their children within Transnistria.

Landmark progress in fighting human trafficking was made with the adoption in 2005 of the Law on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking.[25] The Criminal Code was harmonized with this Law to ascribe criminal responsibility for trafficking in human beings, trafficking in children, the illegal removal of children from the country and pimping.[26] The Code also upgrades safeguards for participants in criminal cases and hands out tougher prison sentences for human traffickers of up to life imprisonment. Since 2001, institutional efforts have been made, including the creation of a special anti-trafficking division within the Prosecutor General's Office and the establishment of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. In 2003, the National Committee established four sub-working groups on prevention, protection, legislation, and child trafficking, each co-chaired by a deputy minister and an international organization, namely, IOM, OSCE or UNICEF.

Although a considerable part of the anti-trafficking activities carried out by the Republic of Moldova are implemented by international organizations and remain dependent on international donor funding, the Government has improved its efforts to protect victims and has provided direct financial assistance to help with victim protection and assistance. It has played a leading role, in partnership with IOM, in developing and implementing the National Referral System (NRS) aimed at assisting and protecting victims and potential victims of human trafficking. Since the NRS was launched in 2006 up until December 2009, the total number of beneficiaries amounted to 874, including 292 victims, and there were 582 cases of prevention.

Depending on financial possibilities, the Government is gradually assuming ownership of the process — a step in this regard was the institutionalization of the Assistance and Protection Centre in Chisinau (designed for the rehabilitation of *potential* victims of human trafficking), which was previously administered by the International Organization for Migration, beginning in August 2008, and is co-funded from the State budget.

The Moldovan Government has also continued the development of the NRS at the transnational level under the regulation on repatriation, approved in August 2008, through the negotiation of bilateral agreements with such destination countries as the Russian Federation, Italy, Ukraine, Cyprus and the United Arab Emirates in the field of protection, and assistance to victims and potential victims of

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[23] *Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, Country Report, Republic of Moldova*, August 2006.

[24] IOM activities in Transnistria, http://www.iom.md/materials/brochures/15_iom_transnistria_region.pdf.

[25] Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, No. 241-XVI of 20 October 2005, MO 164-167 of 9 December 2005.

[26] Articles 165, 206, 207 and 220 of the Criminal Code.

trafficking in human beings. In 2009, 42 unaccompanied minors, 46 victims of trafficking and 9 stranded migrants were repatriated.

With the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence coming into effect in September 2008, the National Referral System was extended to include assistance for victims of domestic violence as well.[27]

The path forward

The commitment of the Republic of Moldova towards the IADGs and, particularly, the MDGs is reflected in the National Development Strategy 2008-2011. These will also be further integrated into the policy coordination and planning process in the next strategic document, after 2011. After having carried out an analysis of IADG status in the Republic of Moldova, namely the MDGs — work that is much more exhaustive than the present report, it was concluded that of 27 specific targets included in the eight MDGs, it is likely that Moldova will achieve 21. Though there are considerable challenges in the environmental and educational sectors, if additional policy and funding (not only in terms of official development assistance) interventions are applied properly, the outcome by 2015 could be much higher than anticipated at the moment. Strengthening the sustainability of the progress registered to date is also of major importance. For example, although the country has registered substantial progress in maternal health care, in order to perpetuate the performance of these indicators, keeping them low and constantly improving them, it is paramount to further improve the health sector, ensuring universal access to quality health care in urban as well as rural areas, constantly improving hospital infrastructure, equipment and human capital. This, obviously, is a continuous process.

What has been understood is that the advancement of MDGs will not be possible to the maximum extent without coordinated interventions in key areas much more far-reaching than the MDGs. These cross-cutting interventions are and have been accounted for in national strategic documents, and "Rethink Moldova" is also centred on them. The effect of carrying out structural changes reflects differently upon different MDGs. Work on each of the eight Goals will be propelled forward by the implementation of certain structural changes and adjustments, which have the simple overall goal of ensuring the proper functioning of the State and quality of life for its population:

1. Universal access to quality health care;

2. Universal quality education and the development of human capital;

3. Infrastructure development will have a positive effect on health care, education, economic development and quality of life in general. Besides, the process is in itself beneficial, as it provides jobs, increasing population revenues, subsequently generating budget revenues;

4. Public administration reform — ensuring the emergence of a professional corps of civil servants at the local, regional and central levels, promoted based on merit and remunerated with competitive salaries;

[27] By the end of 2008, the NRS was extended to 16 districts, two municipalities and one town.

5. Independence of justice and the rule of law is indispensable to a well-functioning State where individuals, groups, as well as private businesses (foreign or local) are protected. The issues of human trafficking and domestic violence, as well as ensuring equal chances for everyone, are the tip of the iceberg when speaking of positive outcomes resulting from a strong and free State;

6. Solving the Transnistrian problem — the goal of ensuring equal chances for every citizen of the Republic of Moldova is impossible to accomplish without solving the problem with the separatist territory. In a situation where the central Government does not have control over a part of the country's territory, where the policies developed simply do not apply, part of its citizens will be underprivileged;

7. Strengthening partnership and dialogue with civil society and development partners: as mentioned repeatedly in the present report, dialogue and close cooperation with civil society has allowed their involvement in fields where the central Government has less reach — at the community level, educating and counselling those in need — a process of which the Government is gradually assuming ownership. Official development assistance has proved to be indispensable for advancing development and combating poverty.

The Government, with the support of development partners and civil society, has adopted and implemented a number of policies aimed at achieving the MDGs, particularly targeting social assistance to the most vulnerable groups and integrating gender-related issues into country development strategies. Committing itself to the MDGs, the Republic of Moldova is midway between the commencement of its offensive against the millennium problems and the successful completion of this challenge. While there has been some progress in MDG implementation since their approval, the trend has reversed in the last three years — a regional and even global phenomenon. Adverse changes took place in relation to the trends of the MDG indicators in 2008. Poverty as well as maternal and child mortality increased, while sanitary infrastructure and education stagnated. The economic difficulties faced over the period 2007-2009, particularly in the latter year, have set back progress significantly.

Among the main challenges that the Government may face is the ongoing economic crisis that continues to force authorities to adopt unpopular policies and practices, such as freezing wage increases, limiting pension indexation and cutting budget expenditure for service provision. The support of donors in financing structural reforms and providing direct support for the budget will be crucial in the medium term, yet investing in growth-generating objectives is essential for ensuring sustainability.

The perpetuation of the political crisis is another impediment to ensuring sequenced actions and may affect the achievement of the MDGs.

Finally, existing statistical shortcomings (as in the case of education) do not allow for proper monitoring, making frequent revision of MDG targets necessary.

Gender equality has in the recent decade been one of the preoccupations of the Government of Moldova and has been addressed through the signing of a number of international documents, the ratification of treaties and a formal commitment to

achieving the MDGs. Therefore, in order to empower women in both political and economic activities, it is necessary first to increase public awareness and raise the level of gender culture so as to encourage both the involvement of women in the political sphere and that of men in raising and educating children. Second, it is necessary to apply measures aimed at increasing the representation of women in decision-making bodies, at both the local and central levels, including through the revision of the Electoral Code. In order to avoid remuneration inequalities, there is a need to establish mechanisms for the systematic monitoring of the manner in which equal remuneration principles are put into practice in the public and private sectors, and to publish the results of this process. Finally, it is important to ensure the application of regulatory norms to prohibit explicit discrimination against women in the labour market and provide mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and punishing such practices, as well as to adopt normative and regulatory acts which would prevent, prohibit and punish moral and sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions.

The efforts made by the authorities to combat violence against women in its various forms and human trafficking are considerable, especially in relation to the development of legal instruments and policies. However, despite this progress, the discrepancy between the legal framework and the reality at the community level is great. To make further headway in this area, it is important to recognize the relationship between the status of women in society and the diverse forms of violence against them, and to fundamentally change the public attitude that violence against women is a "private" matter by initiating awareness-raising campaigns. Also needed is specific training on domestic violence issues for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and various categories of specialists from the health-care system and social assistance. The Government should further promote and support partnerships with civil society to strengthen the infrastructure of services for assistance and protection to victims of violence and human trafficking.

Annex A. Attainability of MDG targets for 2010 and 2015

Assessed target	*Attainability by 2010*	*Attainability by 2015*
Goal 1: Reduce extreme poverty and hunger		
Target 1. Reduce the proportion of people whose consumption is under $4.3 a day/person (in PPP terms) from 34.5% in 2006 down to 29% in 2010 and 23% in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Reduce the proportion of people under the absolute poverty line from 30.2% in 2006 down to 25% in 2010 and 20% in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 3. Reduce the proportion of people under the extreme poverty line from 4.5% in 2006 down to 4% in 2010 and 3.5% in 2015	Likely	Likely
Goal 2. Ensure access to general compulsory education		
Target 1. Ensure opportunities for all children to attend general compulsory education. Increase the gross enrolment rate for general secondary education from 94.1% in 2002 up to 95% in 2010 and 98% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Target 2. Maintain literacy rate for the 15- to 24-year-old population at 99.5%	Likely	Likely
Target 3. Increase the enrolment rate for preschool programmes for 3- to 6-year-old children from 41.3% in 2002 up to 75% in 2010 and 78% in 2015, and for 6- to 7-year-old children from 66.5% in 2002 up to 95% in 2010 and 98% in 2015, as well as reduce by less than 5% the discrepancies between rural and urban areas, between disadvantaged and middle-income groups	Unlikely	Unlikely
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women		
Target 1. Increase women's representation in decision-making positions. Increase representation of women at the decision-making level (from 26.5% in local councils in 2007 to 40% in 2015, from 13.2% in rayon councils in 2007 to 25% in 2015, from 18% women mayors in 2007 to 25% in 2015 and from 22% women MPs in 2005 to 30% in 2015)	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Reduce gender inequality in employment: reduce disparity between women's and men's salaries by at least 10% by 2015 (the average monthly salary of women represented 68.1% of the average salary of men in 2006)	Unlikely	Likely

Assessed target	*Attainability by 2010*	*Attainability by 2015*
	Goal 4. Reduce child mortality	
Target 1. Reduce infant mortality from 18.5 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 down to 16.3 in 2010 and 13.2 in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 2. Reduce the under-5 mortality rate from 20.7 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 down to 18.6 in 2010 and 15.3 in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 3. Maintain the share of measles vaccination of children under 2 years at no lower than 96% in 2010 and 2015	Unlikely	Likely
	Goal 5. Improve maternal health	
Target 1. Reduce the maternal mortality rate from 16 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 to 15.5 in 2010 and 13.3 in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Maintain the number of births assisted by qualified medical staff during 2010 and 2015 at 99%	Likely	Likely
	Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases	
Target 1. Stabilize the spread of HIV/AIDS infection by 2015. Reduce HIV/AIDS incidence from 10 cases per 100,000 population in 2006 to 9.6 cases by 2010 and 8 cases by 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Target 2. Reduce HIV/AIDS incidence in the 15- to 24-year-old age group from 13.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2006 to 11.2 cases by 2010 and 11 cases by 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 3. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reduce tuberculosis. Reduce the rate of mortality associated with tuberculosis from 15.9 (per 100,000 population) in 2002 down to 15.0 in 2010 and 10.0 in 2015	Likely	Likely
	Goal 7. Ensure a sustainable environment	
Target 1. Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reduce degradation of natural resources. Increase forested area from 10.3% in 2002 to 12.1% in 2010 and 13.2% in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Increase the share of protected areas to preserve biological diversity from 1.96% in 2002 to 4.65% in 2010 and 4.65% in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 3. Increase the share of people with permanent access to safe water sources from 38.5% in 2002 up to 59% in 2010 and 65% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely

Assessed target	*Attainability by 2010*	*Attainability by 2015*
Target 4. Halve the number of people without access to improved sewage and sanitation systems. Increase the share of people with permanent access to safe water sources from 31.3% in 2002 up to 50.3% in 2010 and 65% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Target 5. Increase the percentage of population with access to sanitation systems from 41.7% in 2002 to 51.3% in 2010 and 71.8% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Goal 8. Create a global partnership for development		
Target 1. Further develop a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory trade and financial system based on rules through promoting exports and attracting investments	Likely	Likely
Target 2. Deal with issues associated with Moldova's landlocked status by upgrading transportation and customs infrastructure	Unlikely	Likely
Target 3. Monitor external debt issue	Likely	Likely
Target 4. Develop and implement youth strategies. Reduce unemployment among youths to 15% in 2010 and 10% in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 5. Ensure access of population to major drugs	Likely	Likely
Target 6. Build an information society. Double the number of fixed and mobile telephone subscribers from 2006 to 2015 and increase the number of personal computers and Internet subscribers at a minimum annual rate of 15%	Likely	Likely

Annex B. MDG monitoring indicators

Goals/Targets	*Indicator name*	*Source*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Goal 1. Reduce extreme poverty and hunger											
	Share of population living below the threshold of $4.3 as per PPP (consumer spending per person), %	MEc							34.5	29.8	30.4
	Share of population living below the threshold of $2.15 as per PPP (spending per adult equivalent), %	MEc	45.0	32.3	21.0	11.5	11.4	14.4	13.2		
	Share of population living on incomes under $2.15 per person per day by PPP, %	MEc	64.5	52.4	39.8	28.9	27.8	27.6	13.2		
	Share of population living below national absolute poverty line (absolute poverty rate), %	NBS	67.8	54.6	40.4	29.0	26.5	29.1	30.2	25.8	26.4
	Poverty gap index, %	NBS	27.0	19.3	12.4	7.3	6.8	8.0	7.9	5.9	6.4
	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, %	NBS, MEc	6.8	6.5	6.8	7.5	7.2	6.7	8.2	8.1	8.9
	Incidence of malnutrition in children under 5 years, %	MH, NBS	20.9	19.8	18.6	19.0	17.1	16.7	14.3	12.8	11.0
	Share of population living below the level of minimum caloric intake (2,282 kcal/per day) (extreme poverty rate), %	NBS	52.2	38.0	26.2	15.0	14.7	16.1	4.5	2.8	3.2
Goal 2. Ensure access to general compulsory education (grades I-IX)											
Ensure opportunities for all children to attend general compulsory education	Gross enrolment rate into compulsory education system, %	NBS	93.8	94.4	95.1	95.1	94.6	94.4	92.0	91.6	90.9
	Gross enrolment rate in preschool education, children aged 3-6 years, %	NBS	44.1	47.6	57.0	61.1	66.1	70.7	70.1	72.6	74.4
	Gross enrolment rate in preschool education, children aged 6-7 years, %	NBS	36.8	37.6	37.1	35.5	39.0	41.1	40.8	40.5	41.8
	Share of children enrolled in first grade after completing preschool education, %	MEd			66.5	78.8	69.1	75.6	81.7		
Maintain literacy rate for the 15- to 24-year-old population	Literacy rate, %	NBS, MEd					99.9	99.5	99.6	99.6	99.6

Goals/Targets	*Indicator name*	*Source*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women											
Increase women's representation in decision-making positions	Share of MP seats held by women, %	NBS	7.9	12.9	15.8	17.5	22.0	22.0	21.8	21.8	21.8
	Share of seats in local councils held by women, %	CEC								26.5	28.7
	Share of seats in district councils held by women, %									13.2	16.9
	Share of mayoral seats held by women, %									18.0	17.4
Reduce gender inequality in employment	Share of female employees by type of economic activity, %	NBS									
	Agriculture, hunting industry, fish breeding		49.6	50.2	50.4	49.7	51.5	51.7	47.5	46.0	45.5
	Industry		43.1	43.3	44.7	46.1	45.5	45.8	44.3	44.4	45.8
	Construction		15.2	14.5	14.7	13.5	11.4	12.0	9.5	9.4	11.5
	Wholesale and retail trade; hospitality industry		58.0	58.4	58.6	59.3	60.7	59.6	57.6	59.2	58.3
	Transportation and communications		24.8	24.1	25.3	22.2	22.5	26.2	27.9	28.7	25.0
	Public administration; education; health care; social assistance		67.2	66.3	66.9	67.7	67.7	68.3	67.7	70.3	69.7
	Other activities		52.6	53.6	55.1	55.3	56.0	53.1	51.2	53.9	55.2
	Share of women's average salary compared to men's average salary, %	NBS	...	...	...	71.9	71.3	72.6	68.1	72.6	73.3
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality											
	Under-5 mortality rate, cases per 1,000 children born alive	MH, NBS	23.2	20.4	18.2	17.8	15.3	15.6	14.0	14.0	14.4
	Infant mortality rate, cases per 1,000 children born alive	MH, NBS	18.3	16.3	14.7	14.4	12.2	12.4	11.8	11.3	12.2
	Share of children aged under 2 years vaccinated against measles*, %	MH, NBS	89.1	94.1	94.3	95.7	96.3	96.9	96.9	94.7	94.4
Goal 5. Improve maternal health											
	Maternal mortality rate, cases per 100,000 births	NBS, MH	27.1	43.9	28.0	21.9	23.5	18.6	16.0	15.8	38.4
	Rate of assisted births, %	MH	99.3	99.2	99.1	99.4	99.4	99.5	99.6	99.5	99.5

Goals Targets	*Indicator name*	*Source*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases											
Stabilize the spread of HIV/AIDS infection by 2015	HIV/AIDS incidence rate*, cases per 100,000 population	MH, NBS	4.0	5.5	4.7	6.2	8.4	12.5	14.7	17.4	19.4
	HIV/AIDS incidence rate among age group 15-24 years*, cases per 100,000 population	NBS, MH	10.4	10.5	9.0	9.8	13.4	20.1	18.8	21.2	16.1
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reduce tuberculosis	Rate of mortality associated with tuberculosis*, 100,000 population	MH	17.2	15.5	17.3	16.9	17.1	19.1	19.3	20.2	17.1
Goal 7. Ensure a sustainable environment											
Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reduce degradation of natural resources	Share of forested areas, %	Moldsilva Agency	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.9
	Share of protected areas to preserve biological diversity, %	MEn	—	—	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	4.65	4.76	4.76
	GDP per one kg of domestically consumed conventional fuel, MDL, current prices	NBS, MEn	6.0	7.7	8.3	9.8	10.4	11.6	13.8	17.3	20.1
	CO_2 emissions from stationary and mobile source, tons per capita	MEn, NBS	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	...
	CFC emissions, tons per capita	MEn	0.000 0038	0.000 0060	0.000 0082	0.000 0052	0.000 0055	0.000 0040	0.000 0033	0.000 0026	0.000 0000
	Share of people with access to improved water sources, %	NSPCPM, NBS	37.8	38.1	38.5	39.7	44.5	45.0	46.0	47.0	53.0
Halve the number of people without access to improved sewerage services	Share of people with access to improved sanitation, %	MCRD	41.1	40.0	41.7	41.5	43.6	44.0	45.0	45.4	45.9
	Share of people with access to improved sewerage, %	NBS	31.8	32.4	31.3	31.7	32.8	43.8	43.3	43.9	45.7

Goals/Targets	Indicator name	Source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Goal 8. Create a global partnership for development											
Further develop a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory trade and financial system based on rules through promoting exports and attracting investments	Share of exports, % of GDP	NBS, MEc	36.6	38.2	38.7	39.9	37.9	36.5	30.8	30.5	26.3
	Share of international commercial transactions carried out under free trade agreements, %	MEc, NBS							53.6	37.6	36.8
	Trade gap in relation with, % of GDP	NBM	-23.7	-22.1	-23.7	-30.9	-30.1	-40.2	-48.2	-53.3	-54.7
	Loans offered by commercial banks, % of GDP	NBM	14.3	16.3	18.6	21.9	23.1	26.5	30.8	39.1	40.0
	Insurance premiums, % of GDP	NCFM	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
	Turnover of foreign-owned and mixed companies, %	NBS, MEc			25.8	25.4	25.1	26.5	28.2	27.9	27.7
	Net FDI, % of GDP	NBS, MEc	9.9	7.0	5.2	3.7	5.8	6.4	7.4	11.2	11.8
Deal with issues associated with Moldova's landlocked status by upgrading transportation and customs infrastructure	Traffic capacity of national roads, 10,000 vehicles per day	MTRI	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.0	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.8
	Share of investment in transportation sector, % of public investment	NBS, MEc	13.7	12.0	16.0	15.7	12.3	8.2	19.5	6.6	17.6
	Share of investment in air and naval transportation, % investment in transportation	NBS, MEc	76.3	63.1	19.2	11.9	19.7	7.1	28.4	13.8	23.7
Monitoring public external debt	External public debt, % of GDP	MF	60.4	48.1	44.4	36.0	25.7	22.4	20.7	16.2	12.9
	External debt, % of GDP		133.1	115.3	111.4	92.4	73.2	70.8	72.9	70.4	67.5
	Settlement of external public debt, % of tax revenues to State budget	MF	30.4	48.2	27.7	18.1	24.0	9.5	10.0	6.0	4.5
Develop and implement youth strategies	Unemployment rate in age group 15-24 years, %	NBS, NALFE	15.8	16.3	15.2	18.1	19.7	18.7	17.1	14.4	11.2
Build an information society	Fixed telephony penetration per 100 population	NBS	16.6	18.1	19.9	21.9	25.2	27.4	29.7	30.1	31.2
	Mobile telephony penetration per 100 population	NARIT	3.1	6.6	10.0	13.9	23.2	32.3	37.8	52.6	67.9
	Personal computers per 100 population		1.3	1.5	1.8	2.6	3.4	10.3	12.4	15.6	24.8
	Internet users per 100 population	NARIT	1.2	2.0	3.3	8.0	12.0	16.2	21.2	23.4	37.0

* Including data from the eastern side of the Nistru River.

Annex C. Selected indicators, including disaggregated by gender

Table 1
Main macroeconomic indicators

Indicators	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Real growth of GDP, %	2.1	6.1	7.8	6.6	7.4	7.5	4.8	3.0	7.2
GDP per capita, USD	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7
Consumer Price Index, annual average, %	31.2	9.6	5.3	11.6	12.4	11.9	12.7	12.3	7.3
Budget deficit, as a share of GDP, %	-2.5	0.6	-1.8	1.0	0.5	1.6	-0.3	-0.2	-1.0
Foreign direct investment, millions of USD	127.5	103.4	84.5	73.7	151.0	190.7	251.1	493.4	712.8
Migrant remittances, millions of USD	152.9	212.0	254.1	317.3	422.4	683.2	854.5	1 218.2	1 660.1

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, National Bank of Moldova.

Table 2
Gender-disaggregated poverty rates among the most vulnerable categories, 2008, %

	Absolute poverty rate		*Extreme poverty rate*		*Absolute poverty rate (total)*	*Extreme poverty rate (total)*
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*		
Poverty rate (total)	27.1	25.8	3.4	3.0	26.4	3.2
Poverty rate among the elderly, total	353	36.7	3.2	3.3	36.1	3.3
Including by age group:						
60-69	28.1	28.0	2.6	2.8	28.0	2.7
70-75	42.4	41.1	2.7	3.1	41.6	2.9
More than 75	43.0	49.8	5.1	4.8	47.3	4.9
Poverty rate among children, total	27.3	26.7	3.2	4.0	27.0	3.6
Including by age group:						
Under 5	29.7	27.8	2.3	6.0	28.8	4.1
5-9	27.6	24.7	2.8	3.8	26.2	3.3
10-14	25.5	24.3	3.5	2.3	25.0	2.9
15-18	27.2	30.0	3.9	4.5	28.5	4.2
Farmers	37.6	36.2	6.8	6.3	36.9	6.5
Employed in agriculture	44.6	41.1	8.0	8.5	42.8	8.3
Pensioners	37.6	37.0	3.7	3.3	37.3	3.5
Households with 3 or more children under 18	41.9	42.8	7.3	8.3	42.3	7.8
Households with 3 or more children under 16	42.1	41.9	6.4	7.9	42.0	7.2

	Absolute poverty rate		*Extreme poverty rate*		*Absolute poverty rate (total)*	*Extreme poverty rate (total)*
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*		
Households headed by persons with basic/primary education	43.5	42.0	6.2	5.2	42.6	5.6
Households headed by persons without primary education and illiterate	67.2	51.4	8.5	5.6	55.9	6.4
One-person households	26.1	30.1	5.3	2.1	29.0	2.9
Households living on unemployment benefits	63.2	20.5	0.0	0.0	34.9	0.0

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Economy estimates.

Table 3
Selected gender-disaggregated indicators, 2008

Indicators	*Total*	*Women*	*Men*
Number of women and men at the end of the year, 1,000 people	3 567.5	1 852.6	1 714.9
Live births	39 018	18 920	20 098
Economically active population, 1,000 people	1 302.8	644.0	658.8
Employed population, 1,000 people	1 251.0	622.2	628.8
Unemployed, 1,000 people	51.7	21.7	30.0
Economically inactive population, 1,000 people	1 639.0	906.5	732.5
Total pensioners	**621.4**	**399.7**	**221.7**
Total convicted	**7 367**	**982**	**6 385**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.